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NPIC/IEG (7/82)
8 JULY 1982

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**UPGRADING OF AIR FACILITIES
PRES CARLOS IBANES DEL CAMPO AIRFIELD, SOUTHERN CHILE**

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1. S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: A STRENGTHENING OF AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, THE CONTINUED UPGRADING OF AIRFIELD OPERATIONS FACILITIES, AND AN INCREASE IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT IS EVIDENT AT THIS AIRFIELD NEAR PUNTA ARENAS IN SOUTHERN CHILE.
2. (S/D) REMARKS: THIS JOINT MILITARY/CIVILIAN AIRFIELD IS APPROXIMATELY 82 NM WEST OF THE CHILE/ARGENTINE BORDER AND APPROXIMATELY 145 NM NORTHWEST OF THE BEAGLE CHANNEL (GRAPHIC 1 OF 2). [REDACTED] SIX F-5E/F (TIGER) FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AND TEN A-37B (DRAGONFLY) GROUND ATTACK AIRCRAFT (TWO IN FLIGHT) WERE AT THE AIRFIELD. [REDACTED] THE LAST AVAILABLE COVERAGE OF THE AREA, TWO F-5E/F AND FIVE A-37B WERE PRESENT. THE CHILEAN 4TH AIR BRIGADE WITH A REPORTED STRENGTH OF 15 A-37B IS NORMALLY BASED HERE. CHILEAN F-5E/F AIRCRAFT ARE HOME-BASED AT CERRO MORENO AIRFIELD (BE [REDACTED] IN ANTOFAGASTA BUT PERIODICALLY ARE DEPLOYED TO PRES CARLOS IBANES DEL CAMPO AIRFIELD. OTHER AIR ORDER OF BATTLE PRESENT [REDACTED] INCLUDED THREE EMB-110, TWO CASA C-212, TWO DHC-6, THREE T-33 (TWO PROBABLY DERELICT), AND ONE UH-1.

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(S/D) [REDACTED] THE AIRFIELD'S AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF 12 ANTIAIRCRAFT HEAVY MACHINE GUN POSITIONS AT THE NORTHWEST END OF THE FACILITY. [REDACTED] AT LEAST TEN OF THESE POSITIONS WERE OCCUPIED. ALSO, AT LEAST EIGHT PROBABLE WEAPONS POSITIONS WERE CONSTRUCTED IN OTHER LOCATIONS AT THE AIRFIELD.

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(S/D) THE AIRFIELD CONSISTS OF THREE INTERSECTING RUNWAYS (A 3,200-X 60-METER NORTHEAST/SOUTHWEST ASPHALT RUNWAY, A 2,000-X 45-METER NORTHWEST/SOUTHEAST ASPHALT RUNWAY, AND A 1,600-X 45-METER NORTH-NORTHEAST/SOUTH-SOUTHWEST CONCRETE RUNWAY), A MILITARY SUPPORT AREA, A CIVILIAN SUPPORT AREA, TWO COMMUNICATION SITES, AND A POL STORAGE FACILITY. BETWEEN 1979 AND 1981 THE AIRFIELD WAS GRADUALLY UPGRADED TO SUPPORT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE HARDSTANDS, HIGH SPEED (ALERT) RAMPS, AND HARDENED AIRCRAFT SHELTERS. [REDACTED] THREE HANGARETTES HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED ON THE HARDSTANDS AT THE END OF THE HIGH SPEED (ALERT) RAMPS. ALSO A NEW FIGHTER

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AIRCRAFT DISPERSAL AREA IS BEING CONSTRUCTED IN THE NORTHEAST SECTOR OF THE AIRFIELD (GRAPHIC 2 OF 2). ONE HANGARETTE, AND THE FOUNDATIONS FOR ANOTHER HANGARETTE AND FOR TWO SUPPORT BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE TWO HARDENED AIRCRAFT SHELTERS ALREADY PRESENT IN THIS AREA. THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF AIRCRAFT PARKING FACILITIES IS EVIDENT BY THE GROUND CLEARING FOR ADDITIONAL HANGARETTES AND THE PRESENCE OF OVER 100 PRE-FABRICATED, ARCHED-ROOF HANGARETTE SECTIONS ALSO IN THIS DISPERSAL AREA.

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3. (S) COORDINATES 53-00-40S 070-52-45W.

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